

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1–50. (Cancelled)

51. (Previously Presented) A product status system for monitoring the status and storage location of a prepared food product, which comprises:

a processing circuit;

a food product status switch associated with a storage location, the food product status switch being coupled to the processing circuit;

a food product status indicator associated with the storage location, the food product status indicator being coupled to the processing circuit, the food product status indicator having at least a first state which indicates that the prepared food product is stored at the associated storage location and at least a second state which indicates that the prepared food product is not stored at the associated storage location, the state of the food product status indicator associated with the storage location changing from the second state to the first state in response to the prepared food product being supplied to the storage location and the food product status switch being selectively operated by a user, the state of the food product status indicator associated with the storage location changing from the first state to the second state in response to the storage location no longer containing prepared food product and the food product status switch being selectively operated by the user;

a storage timer associated with the storage location, the storage timer being coupled to the processing circuit, the storage timer being initiated in response to the food product status indicator changing from the second state to the first state, the storage timer counting a storage time, the storage time being representative of the duration of time that the prepared food product has been stored at the storage location, the food product status indicator having at least a third state which indicates that the storage time exceeds an acceptable food product hold time, the processing circuit comparing the storage time with the acceptable food product hold time, the state of the food product status indicator associated with the storage location changing to the third state in response to the storage time exceeding the acceptable food product hold time.

52. (Original) A product status system which monitors the status and storage location of a prepared food product in a restaurant as defined by Claim 51, wherein the food product status indicator has at least a fourth state which indicates that the cooking of a replenishment food product should commence, wherein the processing circuit compares the storage time with a cook start time, the cook start time being equal to the difference between the acceptable food product hold time and the time required to cook the replenishment food product, and wherein the state of the food product status indicator associated with the storage location is changed to the fourth state in response to the storage time exceeding the cook start time.

53. (Original) A product status system which monitors the status and storage location of a prepared food product in a restaurant as defined by Claim 51, further comprising a display, the display indicating the state of the food product status indicator associated with the storage location, the display being located remotely from the storage location.

54. (Original) A product status system which monitors the status and storage location of a prepared food product in a restaurant as defined by Claim 51, further comprising an active switch associated with the storage location, wherein the food product status indicator has at least a seventh state which indicates that the storage location is not being used, the state of the food product status indicator changing to the seventh state in response to activation of the active switch.

55. (Original) A product status system which monitors the status and storage location of a prepared food product in a restaurant as defined by Claim 51, wherein the food product status indicator has at least a seventh state which indicates that the storage location is not being used, the state of the food product status indicator changing to the seventh state in response to at least one of a time, a day and an event.

56. (Previously Presented) A product status system which monitors the status and storage location of a prepared food product in a restaurant as defined by Claim 51, further comprising a pan fill level display associated with the storage location, the pan fill level display

indicating a quantity of the prepared food product to cook in response to the state of the food product status indicator changing to the second state.

57. (Previously Presented) A product status system which monitors the status and storage location of a prepared food product in a restaurant as defined by Claim 56, wherein the pan fill level display is located remotely from the storage location.

58. (Currently Amended) A product status system which monitors the status and storage location of a prepared food product in a restaurant as defined by Claim 56, wherein the storage location has associated therewith a current activity level, wherein the activity level is corresponding to a rate of sale of the prepared food product, and a pan fill level, wherein the pan fill level is corresponding to the quantity of the prepared food product to cook in response to the state of the food product status indicator changing to the second state, the pan fill level changing as a function of the current activity level.

59. (Previously Presented) A product status system which monitors the status and storage location of a prepared food product in a restaurant as defined by Claim 58, further comprising a memory, the current activity level being stored in the memory.

60. (Currently Amended) A product status system which monitors the status and storage location of a prepared food product in a restaurant as defined by Claim 58, further comprising ~~an~~ a manual activity level switch associated with the storage location, the current activity level changing in response to activation of the manual activity level switch ~~and without the need to load new data~~.

61. (Previously Presented) A product status system which monitors the status and storage location of a prepared food product in a restaurant as defined by Claim 58, wherein the current activity level is changed in response to at least one of a time, a day and an event and without the need to load new data.

62. (Previously Presented) A product status system which monitors the status and storage location of a prepared food product in a restaurant as defined by Claim 58, further

comprising an activity level display, the activity level display being located remotely from the storage location, the current activity level being displayed on the activity level display.

63. (Previously Presented) A product status system which monitors the status and storage location of a prepared food product in a restaurant as defined by Claim 56, further comprising a selectable menu display, the storage location having a selectable menu associated therewith, the selectable menu having associated therewith a pan fill level, the pan fill level corresponding to the quantity of the prepared food product to cook in response to the state of the food product status indicator changing to the second state, the selectable menu being electronically displayed on the selectable menu display.

64. (Previously Presented) A product status system which monitors the status and storage location of a prepared food product in a restaurant as defined by Claim 63, which further comprises a selectable menu switch associated with the storage location, the selectable menu changing in response to activation of the selectable menu switch.

65. (Previously Presented) A product status system which monitors the status and storage location of a prepared food product in a restaurant as defined by Claim 51, wherein the storage location has a food product pan associated therewith, at least one of the food product status switch and the food product status indicator being located in proximity to the food product pan.

66-99. (Cancelled)